

MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL
&
THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER
present the

NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. SALUTING
AMERICA'S MILITARY & FALLEN HEROES

MAY 27-31, 2027

Z. RANDALL STROOPE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S VETERANS



Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is much more than a three-day weekend that marks the beginning of summer. To many people—especially the nation's thousands of combat veterans—this day, with a history stretching back to the Civil War, serves as a powerful reminder of those who gave their lives in service to their country.

In commemoration of this important holiday, Music Celebrations International and the American Veterans Center are pleased to sponsor and produce a unique Musical Tribute in our Nation's Capital that honors veterans past and present who have sacrificed so much for the liberties we enjoy today. This meaningful commemoration takes place in the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., providing a fitting and dignified setting for reflection and remembrance.

Rising majestically above the skyline of Washington, D.C., the Washington National Cathedral is a stunning landmark of faith, music, and American history. Built over the course of 83 years and completed in 1990, the cathedral was designed in the Gothic style, inspired by the great cathedrals of Europe. For choirs, it holds special significance: its soaring vaulted ceilings and rich acoustics have made it a premier venue for sacred choral music, hosting choirs from around the world. The cathedral has witnessed presidential funerals, national services, and moments of collective reflection. The Washington National Cathedral is both a spiritual center and a living monument to America's cultural and musical heritage.

An uplifting and inspired program of patriotic music will be selected by acclaimed composer and conductor, Z. Randall Stroope. Previous guest conductors have included Dr. André Thomas, Dr. Scott Buchanan, Dr. Craig Jessop, Lt. Col. John Clanton, Col. Larry Lang, Col. (Ret.) Arnald Gabriel, and Weston Noble.



SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2027

- Arrive in Washington, DC
- Meet your Tour Manager, who will escort the group through the duration of the tour
- Time permitting, enjoy a walking tour of the Lincoln, Korean, National World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and Vietnam Memorials, as well as a view of the outside of the Washington Monument
- Check-in to the hotel
- *Festival Welcome Dinner and introductions*
- ***Evening Festival Chorus Rehearsal***
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY TWO: FRIDAY, MAY 28

- Breakfast at the hotel
- ***Morning Festival Chorus rehearsal***
- Lunch, on own
- Free time to explore the Smithsonian Museums or visit and tour Arlington National Cemetery. Attend a Changing of the Guard Ritual at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (School/Government Issued ID required for entry for 16 years and older)
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- ***Evening Festival Chorus Dress Rehearsal***
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY THREE: SATURDAY, MAY 29

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Free time to explore the Smithsonian Museums or visit the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial
- Lunch, on own
- Free time to explore the Smithsonian Museums
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- ***Sound-check at the Washington National Cathedral***
- ***National Memorial Day Choral Festival Performance***
- Return to the hotel for overnight

DAY FOUR: SUNDAY, MAY 30

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Enjoy your morning and afternoon free at leisure for additional sightseeing with your Tour Manager and/or time for shopping or personal activities
- Lunch, on own
- Afternoon sightseeing may include continued free time or time at one of the Smithsonian Institution Museums
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Attend the *National Memorial Day Concert* on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, featuring a performance by the National Symphony Orchestra (no reserved seating)
- Return to the hotel for overnight

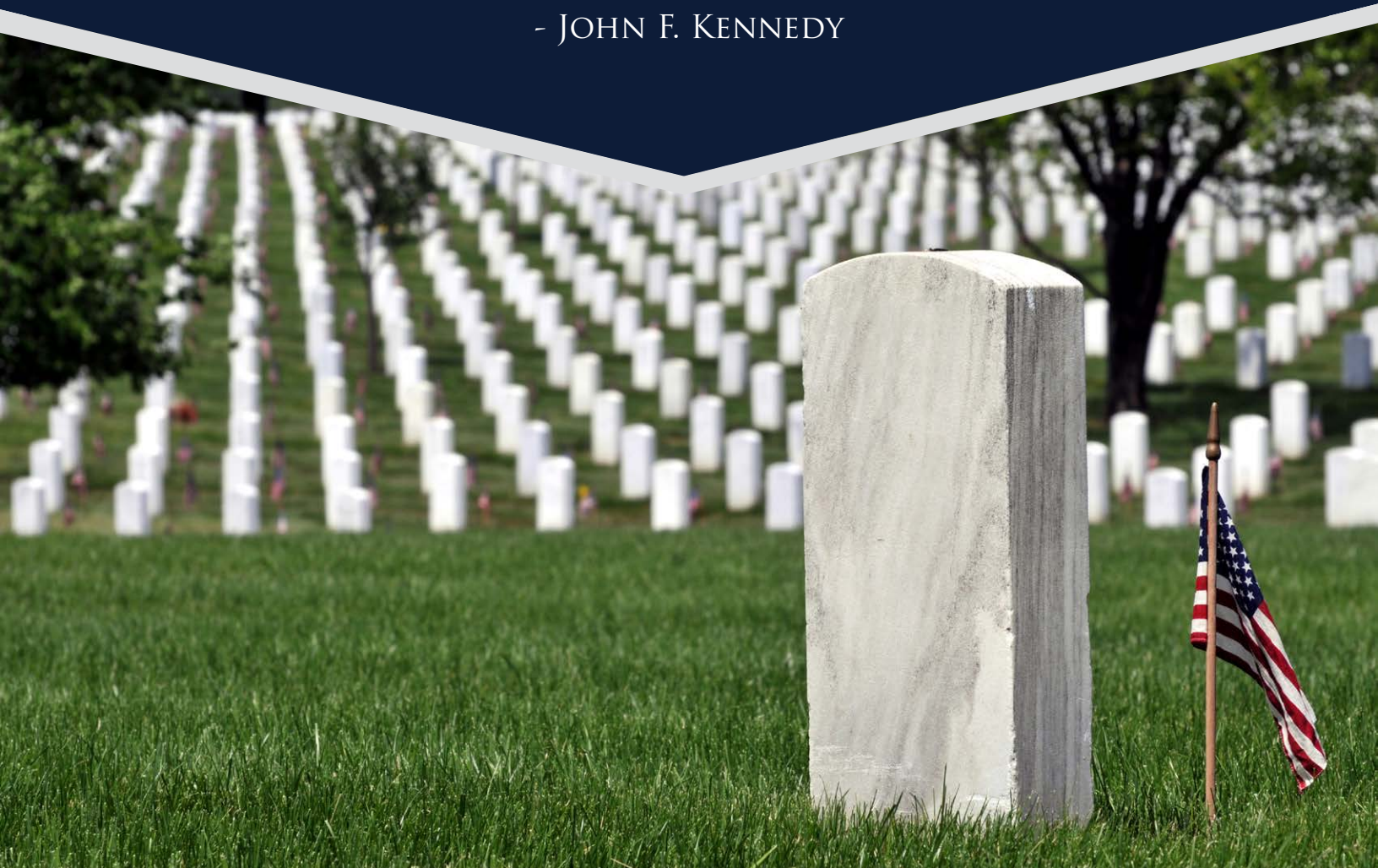
DAY FIVE: MONDAY, MAY 31

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Check-out of the hotel and board your motorcoach for transfer to the pre-parade staging area
- ***Sound-check and technical rehearsal at the National Archives Building***
- Boxed lunch, provided
- ***Festival Chorus Performance at the National Archives Building for the Opening Ceremonies of the National Memorial Day Parade on Historic Constitution Avenue***
- Celebrate Memorial Day by attending America's *National Memorial Day Parade*
- Depart for home



Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

- JOHN F. KENNEDY



For choir inquiries, please contact:

Music Celebrations International
1440 South Priest Drive, Suite 102
Tempe, Arizona 85281-6954
Toll-Free: 800.395.2036
Fax: 480.894.5137
www.musiccelebrations.com
info@musiccelebrations.com



NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Z. RANDALL STROOPE
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Z. Randall Stroope is an American composer, conductor and lecturer. He has had recent conducting engagements at the Sopra Minerva (Rome), American School in Singapore, Canterbury Cathedral (England), Berliner Dom (Germany), Salzburger Dom (Austria), Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and National Presbyterian Cathedral (Washington, D.C.), Carnegie Hall (New York), and five performances at the Vatican in the past four years. He is also the Artistic Director for two summer music festivals in Europe.

Stroope's composition teachers were Cecil Effinger and Normand Lockwood, both students of the famous French teacher/composer, Nadia Boulanger (student of Gabriel Fauré). The principal publishers of his 125 publisher works are Alliance Music Publications, Walton Music, Colla Voce and Oxford (England). His shorter choral works — best known of which are *Conversion of Saul*, *Lamentaciones de Jeremias*, *Magnificat*, *We Beheld Once Again the Stars* (ACDA Raymond Brock Commission), *O Magnum Mysterium*, *The Pasture*, *Revelation*, *Homeland*, *I Am Not Yours*, *Caritas et Amor*, *Song to the Moon* and *Inscription of Hope* — have

sold over three million copies. His choral cycle — *Four Sonnets of Garcilaso* (which contains *Amor de mi alma*) — is based on the poetry of Spanish poet, Garcilas de la Vega and one of his most performed works. Extended works include *Hodie!* (This Day) for brass/organ/percussion and mixed/treble choirs, the solo song cycle *Love's Waning Seasons*, and *American Rhapsody* are also very popular. He has published many instrumental works, including *Fanfare* (brass/percussion/organ) and *Amor de mi alma* (wind ensemble). Stroope is particularly drawn to the poetry of Sara Teasdale, George Herbert, Rainer Maria Rilke, James Agee and Robert Frost. He has conducted and produced 28 YouTube recordings of his works.

Dennis Schrock, in his book *Choral Repertoire* (2009), recognizes Stroope for his compositional output and quality of writing, noting several works that have entered the mainstream of the choral medium. *Conducting Women's Choirs* (2012), edited and compiled by Debra Spurgeon, and *Composers on Composing for Choir* (2007) both have a myriad of quotes and discussion of Dr. Stroope's compositional output.

His works have been recorded or performed by prestigious ensembles nationally and internationally, including the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Luther Nordic Choir, University of Miami Frost Chorale, Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Oregon Bach Festival, Concordia Choir, Oklahoma State University, Prairie Voices (Canada), Oriana Women's Choir, United States Navy Sea Chanters, Grex Vocalis, NOVA, Bella Voce, Turtle Cree Chorale, Westminster Choir College and University of British Columbia. His *We Beheld Once Again the Stars* was recently performed by the Philippine Madrigal Singers in their win of the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing. Stroope's *Revelation* was performed by the Ehwa Chamber Choir (South Korea).

Dr. Stroope has received many awards, including Distinguished Professor of Creative and Scholarly Research (1995–2001), the Douglas R. McEwen Award for National Choral Excellence, Nebraska Choral Director of the Year, Doug and Nickie Burns

Endowed Chair in Choral Music (2013), and one of five Oklahoma State University Distinguished Professors (2013-2014), as well as several composition awards.

As a guest conductor, Stroope has directed 38 all-state choirs, and conducted music festivals in 45 states. He has directed 12 summer international music festivals in England, Germany and Italy. Randall was a Professor of Music at three different universities (an Endowed Professor at two of them) – Rowan University (New Jersey), Oklahoma State University and the University of Nebraska. He now guest conducts and composes full time from his studio in Florida and in New Mexico.

Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Stroope completed a Master of Music (Voice Performance) degree at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Doctor of Musical Arts (Choral Conducting) degree at Arizona State University. He did post graduate work with Margaret Hillis, Chorus Master of the Chicago Symphony. As a recipient of the Australian-American Fulbright, he has also done work in western Australia. He and his wife, Cheryl (a junior high choral teacher), love to travel and spend time with their sheltie.

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